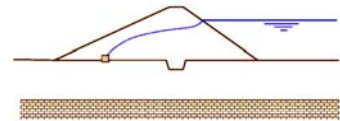


INDIANA DAM SAFETY INSPECTION MANUAL

PART 3 DAM SAFETY INSPECTIONS



Preface

2003 EDITION

The Indiana Dam Safety Inspection Manual is based on accepted practice and consists of information developed from existing documentation on dam safety inspections obtained from state and federal agencies. Dam safety is a complex and multi-disciplinary practice that continues to evolve as professionals gain a better understanding of how the various dam components behave under different loading conditions and how society's level of risk tolerance changes with time. This manual is a "living document" that will change to reflect evolving national practice. As this manual improves with time, it will provide a stable reference for good dam safety inspection practice as administrators, program priorities, and statutes change. It consists of four separate parts:

Part 1 of the Manual describes ownership responsibilities and roles, risks and hazards of dam failure, and provides a detailed overview of dams in Indiana.

Part 2 presents guidelines for operating and maintaining a dam, including specific instructions on how to prepare a management and maintenance plan and how to respond to emergencies.

[Part 3, this part, provides guidance on evaluating dam safety and performing dam inspections. It covers who should perform the inspections and how, and provides guidance on identifying and reporting dam deficiencies and problems.](#)

Part 4 is a compilation of Dam Safety Fact Sheets that present information on a variety of dam operational issues, such as seepage, slope protection, embankment stability, and spillway design, to name a few.

This manual should not be used in lieu of appropriate dam safety technical courses or training by a dam safety professional in the area of dam inspection. However, it should be used by experienced dam safety professionals as a reference and reminder of the aspects required to make a thorough dam safety inspection and evaluation. It should be stressed, however, that inspections alone do not make a dam safe; timely repairs and maintenance are essential to the safe management and operation of every dam.

The dam owner is responsible for maintaining the dam in a safe condition, and should do whatever is necessary to avoid injuring persons or property. As once stated by a highly respected legal scholar, "It is clear that compliance with a generally accepted industry or professional standard of care, or with government regulations, establishes only the minimal standard of care. Courts may assess a higher standard of care, utilizing the "reasonable person" standard and foreseeability of risk as the criteria. It is fair to say that persons who rely blindly upon a governmental or professional standard of care, pose great danger to others, and present a legal risk to themselves, when they know or reasonably should know that reasonable prudence requires higher care."

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Acknowledgements and Disclaimer

This Manual was developed by Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL) for the [Indiana Department of Natural Resources \(IDNR\), Division of Water](#). Principal editors, authors, and support staff within CBBEL included: Siavash E. Beik, P.E. (Project Manager & Technical Editor), Ken Bosar, P.E. (Principal Author), and Jon Stolz, P.E. (Technical Consultant). Principal reviewers and project coordinators at the Division of Water included Kenneth E. Smith, P.E. (Assistant Director) and George Crosby, P.G. (Manager, Dam and Levee Safety Section).

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Much of the material presented in the manual was adapted from various publications developed by Federal and State agencies for dam inspection, operation, and maintenance. In many cases, pertinent text and illustrations were directly utilized within the manual with permission. A complete list of these publications is provided in the Appendices under References. The photographs were primarily obtained from IDNR and CBBEL files for Indiana dams; some photographs were obtained from public sources. The following is a list of agencies whose publications were extensively used in the preparation of this manual:

[Indiana Department of Natural Resources](#)
[Association of State Dam Safety Officials](#)
[U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)
[U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)
[U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation](#)
[Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources](#)
[Ohio Department of Natural Resources](#)
[Colorado Division of Water Resources](#)
[Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection](#)

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Use of trade names, brand names, or drawings designating specific products is for reference purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement of products or services by CBBEL, review team members, the State of Indiana, or any of the cooperative agencies/organizations. Information describing possible solutions to problems and concerns, repairs, and emergency actions are intended for guidance only. The dam owner should seek qualified professional help for construction of new dams and extensive remedial measures for existing dams. Site-specific plans, emergency actions, and repair procedures should be developed on a case-by-case basis; CBBEL, review team members, the State of Indiana, any of the cooperative agencies/organizations and references cited assume no responsibility for the manner in which the contents of the Manual are used or interpreted, or the results derived therefrom. Current IDNR regulations pertaining to dams should take precedence to information contained within this Manual.